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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/635,891	08/10/2000	Hisanori Kawakami	9319S-000152	6925

7590 06/22/2006

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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303

EXAMINER

LEE, GUIYOUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2875

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/635,891	KAWAKAMI, HISANORI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Guiyoung Lee	2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim./Amdt.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 05/12/2006.
2. Claims 1-29 are pending, and claims 1, 13 and 29 have been amended.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to applicant's arguments that the prior art of record, Evanicky, does not disclose the newly added limitation "the second end portion of the reflector member ... is co-linear with the reflected sheet", Examiner found a reference to Watai et al. (US 5,788,356), and the reference still teaches the claimed limitation. The new ground of rejection follows:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US 6,295,105 B1) in view of Evanicky et al. (US 5,831,697), further in view of Watai et al. (US 5,788,356).

Re claims 1 and 3: Lee discloses a side-lighting surface light source device and a method for manufacturing the side-lighting surface light source device having a light source, a reflector

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member (124 in Fig. 2), a light guide plate member (120), and a fixing member (128), wherein the reflector member comprises opposed first and second end portions extending in substantially the same direction (the end portions of 124), the first end portion extends to a greater distance than the second end portion (See Fig. 6), the light guide plate member (120) is arranged in a position that allows the light ray from the light source to enter through the end thereof, and has a light exiting surface that allows the incident light ray to exit in a directivity, the fixing member (128) comprises a fixing body having a support surface (128 a) and a reflector holder for holding the reflector member, and the reflector member (124) directly or indirectly supports at least the light guide plate member on the first end portion thereof (see Fig. 2). Lee further discloses a lug portion integral with the reflector holder securing the reflector member in a clamp state therebetween (the portion of 128 in Fig. 2 that projects out of the reflector holder 128). Lee does not disclose that the second end portion of the reflector member is spaced from the light guide plate member. However, Evanicky discloses a side-lighting device comprising a light source (52), a reflector member (42), a light guide plate member (56), and a fixing member (45a). Further, Evanicky discloses the reflector member has opposed first and second portions and the first end portion extends to a greater distance than the second end portion (See 42 in Fig. 7). Furthermore, Evanicky discloses the second end portion of the reflector member is spaced apart from the light guide plate member (see the gap 150 in Fig. 7). In addition, Evanicky teaches “the gap is present since the door assembly is removable (Col. 10, lines 27-28)”. Making a gap or a space between the end portion of the reflector and the light guide plate member is an obvious matter of engineering choice to adjust parts of the side-lighting surface device internally as Evanicky taught above. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the

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time the invention was made to modify Lee's reflector member to include a gap or a space between the second end of the reflector member and the light guide plate member because such modification is an obvious matter of engineering choice, as taught above. With regard to the limitation "the second end portion is co-linear with the reflective sheet", Lee and Evanicky does not teach the second end portion is co-linear with the reflective sheet. However, Watai discloses that the reflector member is co-linear with the reflector sheet (See the reflector member (20 in Fig. 3) is co-linear with the reflector sheet 6 in Fig. 3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to arrange Lee' reflector member and reflector sheet co-linearly as taught by Watai in order to reduce the thickness of the side-lighting surface device.

Re claims 2 and 4-6: Lee discloses the light guide plate member is secured in a clamped state between the fixing body and the first end portion of the reflector member (See 120 and 124 in Fig. 2).

Re claims 7-11: Lee discloses a reflective sheet (122), an optical sheet (116), and an electro-optical display unit (112).

Re claim 12: Lee discloses a brass reflector member and SUS304 fixing member (col. 3, lines 63+).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 13-29 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With regard to independent claim 13, primary reason for allowance is inclusion of a step of malleably bending the lug portion into contact with the reflector member. No other prior art of record teaches the

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step. With regard to independent claim 29, primary reason for allowance is inclusion of the limitation “ a metal lug portion integral with reflector holder, the lug portion being bent toward the reflector member to directly contact the first end portion of the reflector member”. Claims 14-28 depend from claim 13. Therefore, claims 13-29 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

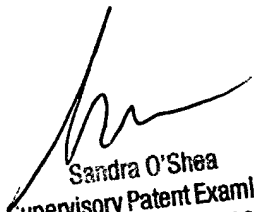
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guiyoung Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LGY



Sandra O'Shea
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